

G.K.

No. 101(A)/125/1/2006

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

भारत
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

नई दिल्ली
NEW DELHI

S.No.
S-Conn.-(1-29)
Notes-(1)
Total 30

फाईल नं
FILE NO. 101(A)/125/1/2006
खण्ड
VOLUME

दिप्पणियाँ/पत्राचार
NOTES /CORRESPONDENCE

विषय
Subject
Reg. Souclation about the plot to
assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

पिछले हवाले
Previous Reference

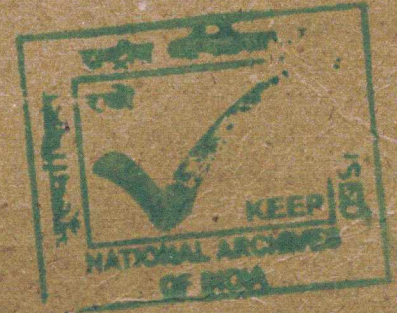
बाद के हवाले
Later Reference

DECLASSIFIED

अरुण कुमार चटर्जी

(अरुण कुमार चटर्जी)
(ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE)
सहायक सचिव (सी.एन.डी.)
Joint Secretary (CNV)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

Keep 28/12/15



**CONFIDENTIAL
PARLIAMENT MATTER**

Reference Parliament Section's note no. AA/125/Parl/14/2005 dated December 1, 2005 regarding **Special Mention** raised during Rajya Sabha debate on August 30, 2005 by Shri Dinesh Trivedi on "**Demand for making Public the recent revelation about the plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**".

The Special Mention refers to media reports quoting an Irish professor of Trinity College, Dublin as stating that there existed documents at the British National Archives, which mentions about a secret plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The Special Mention urges the Government to **pursue the matter with the British Government to make all the available documents public relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.**

Our High Commission in London has informed that requests for access to British official records on the issue of the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose have been made in the past. More recent records show that the **Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate Netaji's disappearance, had visited UK in 2001**, with the aim of examining declassified British official records related to Netaji and kept at the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library. **Certain documents, however, continued to be classified** and the Commission was not given access to them. According to the Records and Historical Department of the FCO these were:

1. A few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies. These intelligence records are withheld from release with the approval of the Lord Chancellor,
2. One paper from the IPI (Indian political intelligence organisation), which is retained on grounds of, continued political sensitivity.

The matter was taken up by the High Commission with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Foreign Office replied that although virtually all the records more than 30 years old were released to the Public Record Office or the British Library, **a few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld with the approval of the Lord Chancellor.** The foreign office conveyed that these are withheld as because of their particular content. They also confirmed that one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity.

This was **taken up again with the British Foreign Office on February 24, 2003** by the High Commission and an identical response was conveyed by FCO dated 22 May 2003. The High Commission has further stated that these files will not be declassified by the British authorities.

In view of the above we may, if approved, request MOS (RIS) to address a letter to the concerned Member of Parliament to inform him of the above. A draft for approval is placed below.

(Taimaya Lal)
Director (Europe-I)

December 1, 2005

JS (Europe-I)

Foreign Secretary

MOS (RIS)

Dir (E)

JS

Shyama 2/n

5/12

Pl. issue

6/12

Issued by MOS (RIS) Mr. Sood.

16756/FS/05
1/12

4769/JS (E) 105
7/12

Dr. No. 2849... MOS (RIS)
6/12

3358/DV (E) 105
7/12

1. retain carefully

Copy to
DS (E-5)
CO (E-7)
9/12

1251/6
①
Deputy Secretary (EW)

From: Deputy Secretary (EW) [usew1@mea.gov.in]
Sent: 10 October 2013 12:24
To: 'subhashmadhu@sify.com'
Subject: RTI application dated 14-09-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Officer)
Attachments: RTI subhash chandra agrawal October 2013.pdf
RTI file
10/10
SO (EW)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
EUROPE WEST DIVISION

No. WI(A)/551/02/2013

New Delhi, 09 October 2013

Dear Shri Agrawal,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 14-09-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Office) seeking information regarding efforts made by Indian Government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose after his sudden disappearance in August 1945.

2. A perusal of our records shows that the information sought by you on points 8,9 and 10 in your application, is not available with Europe West Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

3. The Appellate Authority is Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Director (EW), Room No. 39A, South Block, New Delhi-11. Tel: 23794145; Fax: 23010176. Email: direw@mea.gov.in and the appeal may be sent within 30 days of receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully,

(Srikumar Menon)
Deputy Secretary to Government of India & CPIO
Tel: 91-11-23011261
Fax: 91-11-23016476
Email: usew1@mea.gov.in

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal,
1775, Kucha Lattushah,
Dariba, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi-110006
Email : subhashmadhu@sify.com
AK.

Srikumar Menon
Deputy Secretary (Europe West)
Ministry of External Affairs
Room no. 270-B, South Block, New Delhi 11 000 1
Landline: 0091 11 23011261
Fax: 0091 11 23016476



2

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI

Time Bound/RTI Matter
By Post

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
EUROPE WEST DIVISION

No. WI(A)/551/02/2013

New Delhi, 09 October 2013

Dear Shri Agrawal,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 14-01-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Officer) seeking information regarding efforts made by Indian Government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose after his sudden disappearance in August 1945.

2. A perusal of our records shows that the information sought by you on points 8,9 and 10 in your application, is not available with Europe West Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

3. The Appellate Authority is Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Director (EW), Room No. 39A, South Block, New Delhi-11. Tel: 23794145; Fax: 23010176. Email: direw@mea.gov.in and the appeal may be sent within 30 days of receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully,

(Srikumar Menon)

Deputy Secretary to Government of India & CPIO

Tel: 91-11-23011261

Fax: 91-11-23016476

Email: usew1@mea.gov.in

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal,
1775, Kucha Lattushah,
Dariba, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi-110006
Email : subhshmadhu@sify.com


Copy to: Shri Tanuj Shankar, Under Secretary (RTI) w.r.t O.M. No. RTI/551/1150/2013 dated 24 September 2013.

3

Deputy Secretary (EW)

From: SUBHASH MADHU [subhashmadhu@sify.com]
Sent: 10 October 2013 13:11
To: direw@mea.gov.in
Cc: usew1@mea.gov.in
Subject: Appeal under section 19(1) of RTI Act on RTI application dated 14-09-2013 (received by MEA on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Officer)

Importance: High

By v (2) is dealing with this R. file


FIRST APPEAL UNDER SECTION 19(1) OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar
Director (EW) & Appellate Authority
Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
Room No. 39A, South Block
New Delhi-110011

Madam

I vide my RTI petition dated 14.09.2013 addressed at Prime Minister's Office (PMO) sought complete information together with related documents/correspondence/file-notings on under-mentioned aspects:

1. Is it true that there are some files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with Union government?
2. Complete information on subject-matters of all files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as available with Union government
3. Copies of complete files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
4. Complete information on action taken for making public files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
5. Copies of requests made by various persons to make files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose public
6. Complete information on action taken on requests for making public files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
7. Complete information on commissions etc constituted for enquiry into alleged death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1945 mentioning outcome of each of such enquiry-commissions
8. Complete information on efforts made, if any, by Indian government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (pre-independence or post-independence) after his sudden disappearance in August 1945?
9. Is it true that Indian government has/had been in some agreement with British government for handing over Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to British-government

10. Copies of any agreements between Indian government and British government (pre-independence or post-independence) relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
11. Complete information on celebrating birth-anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose every year on 23rd January by Union and/or state-governments mainly including of West Bengal and Orissa
12. Complete information on honours awarded by Union and/or state-governments including also creating memorials or naming institutions after him in honour of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
13. Comparative chart of annual expenses for last three years made on celebrating birth/death anniversaries of departed leaders by Union government mentioning also if such expenses are made for celebrating birth-anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose also
14. Is 'Netaji' an officially designated honoured pre-fix in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?
15. Complete file-notings/correspondence/documents etc on honouring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with pre-fixed word 'Netaji' before his name
16. Any other related information
17. File-notings on movement of RTI petition

Learned CPIO at MEA (EW) where petition was transferred by PMO under section 6(3) of RTI Act vide e-mail response number WI(A)/551/02/2013 dated 09.10.2013 replied that information sought for query-numbers (8), (9) and (10) did not relate to MEA (EW). I appeal that my RTI petition may kindly be directed to be transferred/revert back under section 6(3) of RTI Act to concerned ones. Learned CPIO has mentioned about other queries. I appeal in case other queries also do not relate to MEA (EW), then these queries may also be transferred to concerned ones for response. It is prayed accordingly.

I do appreciate efforts of learned CPIO by adopting e-mail route for RTI response. I appeal that an acknowledgement of my appeal may kindly be sent through e-mail followed by appeal-order.

Humbly submitted

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

(Guinness Record Holder & RTI Activist)

1775 Kucha Lattushah

Dariba, Chandni Chowk

DELHI 110006 (India)

Mobile 9810033711 Fax 23254036

E-mail subhashmadhu@sify.com

10.10.2013

5

From: usew1@mea.gov.in [mailto:usew1@mea.gov.in]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 12:24 PM

To: subhashmadhu@sify.com

Subject: RTI application dated 14-09-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Officer)

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
EUROPE WEST DIVISION**

No. WI(A)/551/02/2013

New Delhi, 09 October 2013

Dear Shri Agrawal,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 14-09-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Office) seeking information regarding efforts made by Indian Government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose after his sudden disappearance in August 1945.

2. A perusal of our records shows that the information sought by you on points 8,9 and 10 in your application, is not available with Europe West Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

3. The Appellate Authority is Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Director (EW), Room No. 39A, South Block, New Delhi-11. Tel: 23794145; Fax: 23010176. Email: direw@mea.gov.in and the appeal may be sent within 30 days of receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully,

(Srikumar Menon)

Deputy Secretary to Government of India & CPIO

Tel: 91-11-23011261

Fax: 91-11-23016476

Email: usew1@mea.gov.in

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal,
1775, Kucha Lattushah,
Dariba, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi-110006
Email : subhashmadhu@sify.com

Srikumar Menon
Deputy Secretary (Europe West)
Ministry of External Affairs
Room no. 270-B, South Block, New Delhi 11 000 1
Landline: 0091 11 23011261
Fax: 0091 11 23016476



125/11/6 (6)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI

Time Bound/RTI Matter
By Post

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
EUROPE WEST DIVISION

No. WI(A)/551/02/2013

New Delhi, 09 October 2013

Dear Shri Agrawal,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 14-01-2013 (received on 24-09-2013 on transfer from Prime Minister's Officer) seeking information regarding efforts made by Indian Government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose after his sudden disappearance in August 1945.

2. A perusal of our records shows that the information sought by you on points 8,9 and 10 in your application, is not available with Europe West Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

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Yours faithfully,

(Srikumar Menon)

Deputy Secretary to Government of India & CPIO

Tel: 91-11-23011261

Fax: 91-11-23016476

Email: usew1@mea.gov.in

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal,
1775, Kucha Lattushah,
Dariba, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi-110006
Email : subhshmadhu@sify.com

Copy to: Shri Tanuj Shankar, Under Secretary (RTI) w.r.t O.M. No. RTI/551/1150/2013 dated 24 September 2013.

Ministry of External Affairs
(RTI Cell)

Room No. 2021, A – Wing,
Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan,
23-D Janpath, New Delhi-110011

No. RTI/551/1150/2013

Dated: 24/09/2013

Office Memorandum

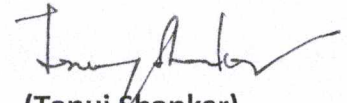
Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005.

RTI application of Shri/Smt./Kum Subhash Chandra Agrawal, dated 14/09/2013(received on 24/09/2013) is forwarded herewith for processing and responding to the applicant. The application has been received, on transfer, from the Prime Minister's Office, vide no. RTI/4563/2013-PMR dated 18/09/2013.

2. The reply may be sent directly to the applicant under intimation to the RTI Cell. As the maximum permissible time-limit for responding to RTI application is 30 days from the date of receipt of the application in the RTI Cell of the Ministry, the RTI Cell may be apprised of the response at least 5 days before the expiry of the deadline.

3. In case, the application does not fall under any of the under mentioned CPIO(s)' jurisdiction, the same may further be transferred to the CPIO(s) in the Ministry to which the subject matter is more closely connected directly under intimation to the applicant and the RTI Cell. If no information is available it may also be conveyed directly to the applicant. In case, the subject matter does not pertain to this Ministry, the same may be communicated to the RTI Cell immediately so that the application or parts thereof can be transferred to the relevant public authority. In case no information is available, the same may be informed to the applicant under intimation to RTI Cell.

4. The applicant has deposited requisite RTI fee of Rs.10/-



(Tanuj Shankar)

Under Secretary(RTI)

Tel: 4901 5226/4901 5227

Encl.....As above

To,

1. Shri Srikumar Menon,
DS(EW) & CPIO,
Room No. 270-B,
South Block,
New Delhi.

Points....(8,9,10)

2. Shri Ninad Satishchandra Deshpande,
US(China)& CPIO,
Room No. 270-A,
South Block,
New Delhi.

Points....(8,9,10)

14950/FS/2013
19/09

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

1150/12

Right to Information

South Block
Delhi-110 011

8

No. RTI/4563/2013-PMR

3573 Dir (RTI) / 2013
24/09/2013 Dated: 18 /09/2013

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

क्रियस संख्या
Dy. No. 3431/RTI Sec./2013
दिनांक/Date 24/09/13

Subject : Application under Right to Information Act, 2005.

An application dated 14/09/2013 received on 16/09/2013 from Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal on the above noted subject is transferred under section 6(3) (ii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, for action as appropriate.

Application fee has been received.

S E D
(S.E. Rizwi)
Deputy Secretary and
Central Public Information Officer
Phone: 2307 4072

1. Home Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block, New Delhi-110 001
Relevant portion of points 7, 8, 11 to 15
- ✓ 2. Foreign Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs
South Block, New Delhi – 110 011
Points 9, 10 & relevant portion of Point 8
3. Secretary
Ministry of Culture
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 001
Relevant portion of points 11, 13 to 15
4. Secretary
Ministry of Urban Development
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
Relevant portion of point 12
5. Central Public Information Officer
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
Relevant portion of point 7

Copy by Registered AD to:

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal
1775, Kucha Lattushah
Dariba, Chandni Chowk
Delhi - 110 006

You are advised to approach the above public authorities for further information regarding the matter.

2. Regarding information pertaining to the records of State Government, you may file separate application before the designated public authorities in the respective State Government.

3. Request made in point nos 1 to 6 & 16 are not specific, you have sought information with no specific time frame/period and subject. Hundreds of requests on various aspects/facets of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose might have been received and processed in this office in various files/records. Therefore, the office in the absence of any specific date-base of such kind, would have to go through numerous records to compile the information which would disproportionately divert the resources of this office from the efficient discharge of its normal function. Specifying the details of the aspect/ subject (in respect of points 1 to 4) and the person and/or the request date (in respect of points 5 to 6), preferably for a shorter period of time, would help retrieve if any the information, from the available records.

4. As regards point 17 of your application whereby you have requested for copy of note sheet, it is informed that under RTI Act, 2005 information to be provided relates to information "held" by a public authority. Your demand for note sheet of file where your RTI application is dealt is for future action as no note sheet was "held" at the time your application was received.

5. For the purpose of section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, Shri Krishan Kumar, Director, is the appellate authority in respect of this office.

vs (Dir), vs (Chm)

21/9
Dir (FSO)

24/09
Dir (RTI)
10
24/09
VSCLTB
SOCLTB

Handwritten signature/initials

4563/13-17 Sep 13

4563/13

9

UNDER RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

Central Public Information Officer
 Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
 South Block, New Delhi - 110101

URGENT
RTI ACT
Diary No. 11896 & Date 16/09/13
Last Date 21/09/13 For Disposal

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
16 SEP 2013
DAK GIST

Sir

Please provide complete information together with related documents/correspondence/file-notings on under-mentioned aspects:

1. Is it true that there are some files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with Union government?
2. Complete information on subject-matters of all files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as available with Union government
3. Copies of complete files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
4. Complete information on action taken for making public files relating to Netjai Subhash Chandra Bose
5. Copies of requests made by various persons to make files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose public
6. Complete information on action taken on requests for making public files relating to Netjai Subhash Chandra Bose
7. Complete information on commissions etc constituted for enquiry into alleged death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1945 mentioning outcome of each of such enquiry-commissions
8. Complete information on efforts made, if any, by Indian government to trace Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (pre-independence or post-independence) after his sudden disappearance in August 1945?
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10. Copies of any agreements between Indian government and British government (pre-independence or post-independence) relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
11. Complete information on celebrating birth-anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose every year on 23rd January by Union and/or state-governments mainly including of West Bengal and Orissa

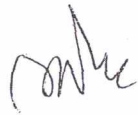
38 27307

IPO No. 11F 094433. 7 2/1

- (10)
12. Complete information on honours awarded by Union and/or state-governments including also creating memorials or naming institutions after him in honour of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
 13. Comparative chart of annual expenses for last three years made on celebrating birth/death anniversaries of departed leaders by Union government mentioning also if such expenses are made for celebrating birth-anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose also
 14. Is 'Netaji' an officially designated honoured pre-fix in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?
 15. Complete file-notings/correspondence/documents etc on honouring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with pre-fixed word 'Netaji' before his name
 16. Any other related information
 17. File-notings on movement of RTI petition

In case queries relate to some other public-authority, transfer RTI petition to CPIO there under section 6(3) of RTI Act. Postal-order 11F-094433 for rupees ten is enclosed towards RTI fees in name of "Accounts-Officer" as per DoPT-circular-number F.10/9/2008-IR dated 05.12.2008.

Regards



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

(Guinness Record Holder & RTI Activist)

1775 Kucha Lattushah

Dariba, Chandni Chowk

DELHI 110006 (India)

Mobile 9810033711 Fax 23254036

E-mail subhashmadhu@sify.com

Web www.subhashmadhu.com

14.09.2013



राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह
RAO INDERJIT SINGH

विदेश राज्य मंत्री
भारत
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
INDIA

11

No. 2849/ MOS(RIS)/2005

5th December, 2005

Dear Trivedi ji,

Please refer to the Special Mention raised by you in Rajya Sabha during the debate on August 30, 2005 on "Demand for making public the recent revelation about the plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose".

We appreciate and share your concern about this matter of considerable importance. Government of India have, in fact, made several efforts over the years to gain access to the relevant records from the concerned British authorities.

The British authorities have informed that virtually all the records more than 30 years old have been released to the Public Record Office or the British Library. However, certain documents continue to be classified and access has been denied to those documents.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Inderjit Singh
(Inderjit Singh)

Shri Dinesh Trivedi,
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
(Rajya Sabha),
New Delhi.

Minister of State for External Affairs

New Delhi.....

Dear

Please refer to the Special Mention raised by you in Rajya Sabha during the debate on August 30, 2005 on "Demand for making Public the recent revelation about the plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose".

We appreciate and share your concern about this matter of considerable importance. Government of India have, in fact, made several efforts over the years to gain access to the relevant records from the concerned British authorities.

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Yours sincerely

(Rao Inderjit Singh)

Shri Dinesh Trivedi
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)
New Delhi

13

direw@mea.gov.in

From: "smita purushottam" <smitapurushottam@yahoo.com>
To: "Tanmaya Lall" <direw@mea.gov.in>
Cc: "Ajaneesh Kumar" <dsewc@mea.gov.in>
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2005 9:13 PM
Attach: Historical records.pdf; PQ_bose.jpg
Subject: Special Mention Netaji

Dear Tanmaya,

Reference your email on the Special Mention regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which has been inadvertently deleted. However I had saved the attachment which contains the special mention by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, which is reattached, in which he has essentially demanded that *all* the documents relating to Netaji be made public by the British government in order to gain information, this time, on ! orders allegedly issued by the British Foreign Office in 1941 for the assassination of Netaji.

Our files show that requests for access to British official records on the issue of Netaji's disappearance have been made in the past. More recent records show that the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate Netaji's disappearance, had visited the UK on July 18-August 6, 2001 with the aim of examining declassified British official records related to Netaji and kept at the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library. Certain documents continued ! however to be classified and the Commission was not given access to them. According to the Records and Historical Department of the FCO these were:

1. A few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies. These intelligence records are withheld from release with the approval of the Lord Chancellor,
2. One paper from the IPI (Indian political intelligence organisation) which is retained on grounds of continued political sensitivity.

The Commission had requested that the British authorities be approached to make available these documents. The then DHC met the Head of the South Asian Department of the FCO pursuant to receiving a request from Ministry that the Commission be permitted to examine the British intelligence records withheld from release.

The Foreign Office on 14 December 2001 replied that virtually all the records more than 30 years old were released to the Public Record Office or the British Library. A few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld with the approval of the Lord Chancellor. The foreign office conveyed that these are withheld as a matter of principle because the peacetimes files of the intelligence and security agencies are not released, rather than because of their particular content. They also confirmed that one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity. This reply is virtually identical to the memo given to the Commission during their visit by the Records and Historical Department. This position had thus been explained to Justice Mukherjee.

This was taken up again with the British Foreign Office on February 24, 2003 by the High Commission and an identical response was conveyed by FCO dated 22 May 2003. The file also shows that requests pertaining to declassified documents were met by the British authorities.

It is clear that these files will not be declassified and it appears that approaching the Foreign Office would elicit the same reply as the ones received before.

11/21/2005

(14)

I can fax the letters mentioned above tomorrow if you so wish.

Warm regards

Smita

Smita Purushottam
Minister (Pol)
High Commission of India
India House
Aldwych
WC2B 4NA
Ph: 0207 632 3003/3043

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11/21/2005

Archives of Member States' Foreign Ministries and European Union institutions

UNITED KINGDOM

1. Full title of Foreign Ministry and of archives service:

- (a) Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Records and Historical Department
(for documents up to 30 years old and withheld documents)
- (b) The National Archives (for documents over 30 years old)

2. Full address:

- (a) Records and Historical Department
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA
United Kingdom
Tel: (44 20) 7008 1118
Fax: (44 20) 7008 1112
- (b) The National Archives
Ruskin Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU
United Kingdom
Tel: (44 20) 8876 3444
Fax: (44 20) 8878 8905
Website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

3 Summary of historical background of the archives service, showing its place in the current organisational chart of the MFA

(a) Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

Diplomatic records in England effectively began in the 13th century under the direction first of the Chancellor and later of the King's Secretary, or Principal Secretary. A second Principal Secretary was appointed in the first half of the 16th century and, in 1640 work was divided between them on a regional basis. The present Foreign and Commonwealth Office originated in 1782 when a Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was appointed. From 1801, successive librarians were responsible both for published books and for the manuscript correspondence of the Foreign Office. The Librarian continued to be responsible for official papers until 1968, when on the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices, Library and Records Department was formed.

Responsibility for the creation, custody, exploitation and release of FCO records now rests with Records and Historical Department within the Information Directorate:

- **Registry Audit/MINERVA** provides guidance and training on registry procedures, electronic records management and the FCO electronic archive (MINERVA)

- **Records Management** holds the archive of non-current records, provides a retrieval service for FCO staff and organizes the review and release of material to the National Archives at 30 years

- **Open Government** leads on Data Protection and Freedom of Information issues in the FCO, and deals with requests under the Code Of Practice on Access to Government Information

- **Historians** publish the official record of British foreign policy in *Documents on British Policy Overseas* and provide historical advice

- **Treaty Section** arrange the publication of treaties to which the UK is party and the transfer of original treaty documents to the National Archives, and provide an information service (for treaty information see www.fco.gov.uk/treaty)

The Head of Records and Historical Department is Departmental Record Officer for the FCO.

(b) The **National Archives (PRO)**

The National Archives (formerly Public Record Office) houses the national archives of England and subsequent to the Act of Union in 1707 those of the United Kingdom. These comprise records created by the actions of central government and of the courts of law of England and Wales. Its origins go back to an Act of Parliament of 1838. The Chief Executive of The National Archives, the Keeper of Public Records, submits an annual report to the Lord Chancellor, a Minister of the Crown.

4. Physical access:

No public access to records under 30 years held by the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**. Access to records over 30 years old held by **The National Archives** is by reader's ticket issued on production of documentary proof of identity (passport for non-UK nationals).

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 0900-1700; Tuesday 0930/1000-1900, Thursday 0900-1900,

Closed: Public holidays and annual stock-taking (usually the first week in December). Check The National Archives website for definite dates.

5. Practical facilities:

The National Archives has one reading-room for the consultation of original records (256 seats) and a second for maps and large documents (16 seats and 10 further working surfaces; four microfiche readers and three microfilm readers); one room solely for the study of records in microform (60 microfilm readers and 6 microfiche readers)

6. Reproduction of documents:

Photocopies of documents, 35mm microfilm, electrostatic prints, prints from film, bromide print, scanned images, black and white photographs and colour photographs can be supplied. Official certified copies may also be ordered. Information on the scale of charges for each kind of work and procedures for ordering copies may be obtained from the Record Copy Ordering Section at Kew or from The National Archives website.

7. Access regulations:

Access to UK official records is currently regulated by the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1967 (full text on <http://www.pro.gov.uk/about/foi.htm>) under which records are made available to the public after 30 years. From January 2005 access will be regulated by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (full text on www.hmsso.gov.uk)

Documents under 30 years old are held by the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**; there is no public access. The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information gives a non-statutory right of access to information, subject to certain exemptions. From January 2005 records can be accessed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000: applications should be sent to Records and Historical Department.

Documents over 30 years are, with few exceptions, available for inspection by members of the public in **The National Archives**. Records may be withheld from the public domain for longer than 30 years with the approval of the Lord Chancellor if their release would:

- harm defence, international relations or national security
- cause substantial distress to, or endanger persons or their descendants affected by disclosure
- constitute a breach of good faith by making public information supplied in confidence
- disclose information relating to security and intelligence matters

8. Concise description of the principal record groups and collections:

Records and Historical Department of the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** holds 23km of non-current records in their archive at Hanslope Park. These are the records created by the political and functional departments of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK and (to a lesser extent) those of British diplomatic missions overseas.

Material is selected for permanent preservation and transfer to The National Archives according to criteria set out in a series of Operational Selection Policies (OSP). OSP 13 *Britain's diplomatic relations 1973-1996* sets out the key collection themes in FCO headquarters records; a further OSP on *Records of Britain's overseas representation, 1973-* covering records created by British overseas representatives is under preparation. Full texts of all OSPs are available on The National Archives (PRO) website (www.pro.gov.uk/recordsmanagement)

Diplomatic records and other records of relations with other countries at **The National Archives** include:

- the State Papers Foreign from the 16th century to 1782
- records of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1968- (Lettercode FCO, 93 series)
- records of the Foreign Office, 1782-1968 (Lettercode FO, 1100 series)
- records of the Colonial Office, 1782-1966, including earlier Colonial State Papers beginning in the 16th century (Lettercode CO, 1053 series)

records of the Dominions Office, 1926-47, Commonwealth Relations Office, 1947-66 and Commonwealth Office, 1966-68 (Lettercode DO, 190 series)

9. Finding aids

The catalogue of The National Archives **holdings of all FCO, FO, CO and DO records can be searched online via The National Archives website. Detailed lists are also available in The National Archives and readers may consult some original registers of correspondence. A card catalogue to FO correspondence 1906-19 and annual indexes to FO correspondence for 1920 to 1951 are also available. The 1920-51 index has been published by Kraus-Thomson Organization.**

10. Reference works and articles

The **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** Historians publish the official record of post-1945 British foreign policy in the series *Documents on British Policy Overseas*. This is the successor to the two previous series, *British Documents on the Origins of the War 1898-1914* and *Documents on British Foreign Policy 1919-39*. Details of publications can be obtained from the FCO Historians, Old Admiralty Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2PA and from the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk)

The **National Archives** (PRO) has produced:

The Records of the Foreign Office, 1782-1968. 2nd edition, 2002

'Never Complain, Never Explain': Records of the Foreign Office and State Paper Office 1500-c.1960, 1994

The Records of the Colonial and Dominions Office, 1964

The Second World War: a guide to documents in the Public Record Office, revised edition, 1993

**DEMAND FOR MAKING PUBLIC THE RECENT REVELATION ABOUT
THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE.**

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (WEST BENGAL) : As per the media reports appeared in several newspapers wherein it was reported that an Irish Prof. of Trinity College, Dublin, had said while delivering the Sisir Bose Lecture that there existed documents at the British National Archives which mentions about a secret plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. As per the Prof. the British Foreign Office had issued an order in March 1941 for assassination of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

As per the Prof. on March 7th, the British Special Operation Executive (BSOE) informed its representatives in Istanbul and Cairo that Bose was traveling from Afghanistan to Germany via Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The SOE were asked to wire what arrangements they could make for his assassination. Fortunately, Netaji did not travel through West Asia as was anticipated. He went via Russia disguised as Orlando Mazzotta and reached Berlin on April 2.

As per the documents available, on June 13th the SOE in Istanbul inquired whether the assassination order still stood. Once the decision was confirmed, London cabled the SOE that the foreign office agreed to liquidation of Bose on Turkish territory.

As per the media report, documents containing this secret plot to kill Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has been handed over by the Prof. to Netaji Research Bureau Chairperson.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was one of the greatest freedom fighters of India and has contributed immensely in getting India its Independence and we have just celebrated 58th year of our Independence. Since this has been widely reported in the media, I urge upon the Government to pursue the matter with the British Government and make all the available documents public relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose especially now that we have an excellent relationship with the British Government. I am sure, this is not a difficult task. (ends)



British 'attempted to kill Bose'

By Subir Bhaumik
BBC News, Calcutta

The British told their agents to assassinate India's independence war leader Subhash Chandra Bose in 1941, an Irish historian has claimed.

Eunan O'Halpin, who has written several books on British intelligence, says the order came after Bose sought support of the Axis powers in World War II.

British agents were told to intercept and kill Bose before he reached Germany via the Middle East, Mr O'Halpin says.

Bose is believed to have died in a plane crash in Taiwan in 1945.

Puzzled

Mr O'Halpin says that once they found Bose was planning to oust the British with active support of the Axis powers, British intelligence was given "clear orders" to assassinate him in 1941.

It appears to be a last desperate measure against someone who had thrown the Empire in complete panic
Eunan O'Halpin

In a lecture in Calcutta, Mr O'Halpin cited a recently declassified intelligence document referring to a top-secret instruction to the Special Operations Executive (SOE) of British intelligence to murder Bose.

Mr O'Halpin says the British were initially puzzled about the whereabouts of Bose after his escape from Calcutta in January 1941.

"They thought he had gone to the Far East, but they soon intercepted Italian diplomatic communication and came to know Bose was in Kabul, planning to reach Germany through the Middle East," said Mr O'Halpin.

"Two SOE operatives in Turkey were instructed by their headquarters in London to intercept Bose and kill him before he reached Germany," the Irish professor, who teaches at Trinity College, Dublin, said.

Mr O'Halpin said the SOE operatives in Turkey failed to because Bose reached Germany through Central Asia and the Soviet Union. "Every time [the operatives] checked back, headquarters told them the orders were intact and Bose must be killed if found."

Mystique

Describing the decision as "extraordinary, unusual and rare", Mr O'Halpin said the British took Bose "much more seriously than many thought".

He added: "Historians working on the subject tell me the plan to liquidate Bose has few parallels. It appears to be a last desperate measure against someone who had thrown the Empire in complete panic."

Other historians who have worked on Bose say this will add to the mystique of India's most charismatic independence war figure.

"Bose would have reasons to compliment himself if he knew that the British were desperate enough to plan his assassination. That's a measure of how seriously they took him," says Calcutta historian, Lipi Ghosh.

In retrospect, she says, the British had correctly assessed the potential of Bose.

Sugata Bose, Gardiner professor of history at Harvard University and a grand-nephew of Bose, said: "Since he ultimately managed to swing the loyalty of the Indian soldiers to the national cause from the King Emperor, they had all the reasons to contemplate the worst."

After 20 years in the Indian National Congress, Bose was elected its president but quit in disgust at Gandhi's plans for non-violent struggle.

After reaching Germany he travelled to East Asia in a 90-day submarine journey to set up the Indian National Army from soldiers who had surrendered to Japan.

Bose's army fought with the Japanese in the Imphal-Kohima campaign in 1944-1945.

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/4152320.stm

Published: 2005/08/15 10:09:05 GMT

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tanmayalal@hotmail.com

Printed: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 7:56 AM

From : dsewc <dsewc@mea.gov.in>
Reply-To : "dsewc" <dsewc@mea.gov.in>
Sent : Wednesday, November 23, 2005 5:21 AM
To : "Tanmaya Lal" <tanmayalal@hotmail.com>
Subject : Special Mention

Dear Tanmay,
Tks for yr msg.
Somehow my email was returned. I am resending it.
----- Original Message ----- From: "dsewc" <dsewc@mea.gov.in>
To: <tanmayalal@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 4:47 PM
Subject: Special Mention

Dear Tanmay,
Please find below the draft note for JS (E-II) and the draft reply for MOS (RIS).
At the end, you can also see the input received from our Mission. Grateful if you could go through it and send the approved version so that it may be put up tomorrow.
AMS Div has already put the reply and MOS (RIS) has issued the letter to the hon'ble MP on the 'turban' issue. As advised, I am not taking any further action in this matter.
Warm regards,

Ajaneesh Kumar
DS (E-1)
Tel: 23011261
Fax: 23016476

Note for MOS (RIS)

Ministry of External Affairs

Europe-I Division

Reference Parliament Session's note no. AA/125/Parl/14/2005 dated 1.9.2005 seeking reply to Special Mention raised during Rajya Sabha debate on August 30, 2005 by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, regarding "Demand for making public the recent revelation about the plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose".

The Special Mention refers to the media reports which appeared in several newspapers wherein it was reported that an Irish Prof. of Trinity College, Dublin, had said while delivering the Sisir Bose Lecture that there existed documents at the British National Archives which mention about a secret plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Our High Commission has made several requests for access to British official records on the issue of Netaji's disappearance have been made in the past. More recent records show that the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate Netaji's disappearance, had visited the UK on July 18-August 6, 2001 with the aim of examining declassified British official records related to Netaji and kept at the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library. Certain documents continued, however to be classified and the Commission was not given access to them. According to the Records and Historical Department of the FCO these were:

1. A few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies. These intelligence records are withheld from release with the approval of the Lord Chancellor,

(24)

2. One paper from the IPI (Indian political intelligence organisation) which is retained on grounds of continued political sensitivity.

On the request of the Commission for approaching the British authorities for the British intelligence records withheld from release, the then DHC met the Head of the South Asian Department of the FCO. The Foreign Office on 14 December 2001 replied that virtually all the records more than 30 years old were released to the Public Record Office or the British Library. A few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld with the approval of the Lord Chancellor. The foreign office conveyed that these are withheld as a matter of principle because the peacetimes files of the intelligence and security agencies are not released, rather than because of their particular content. They also confirmed that one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity. This reply is virtually identical to the memo given to the Commission during their visit by the Records and Historical Department.

The subject was taken up again with the British Foreign Office on February 24, 2003 by the High Commission and an identical response was conveyed by FCO dated 22 May 2003. Our High Commission has emphasized that inspite of our repeated requests the files on the subject would not be declassified and approaching the foreign office would only elicit a negative response as in the past.

In view of the above we may, if approved, request MOS (RIS) to address a letter to the concerned Member of Parliament to inform him of the above. A draft for approval is placed below.

(Ajaneesh Kumar)

DS (Europe-I)

November 22, 2005

JS (Europe-II)

Foreign Secretary

MOS (RIS)

Draft reply from MOS(RIS)

(25)

DRAFT

Minister of State for External Affairs

New Delhi

Dear

Please refer to the Special Mention raised by you in Rajya Sabha during the debate on August 30, 2005 regarding "Demand for making public the recent revelation about the plot to assassinate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose".

The subject was taken up by our High Commission in London, UK, on several occasions including on the request of the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate Netaji's disappearance, which had visited the UK on July 18-August 6, 2001 with the aim of examining declassified British official records related to Netaji and kept at the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library.

The British authorities have informed that a few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld with the approval of the Lord Chancellor. The UK Foreign Office has pointed out that these are withheld as a matter of principle because the peacetime files of the intelligence and security agencies are not released, rather than because of their particular content. They also confirmed that one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity.

Yours sincerely

(Rao Inderjit Singh)

Shri Dinesh Trivedi

Hon'ble Member of Parliament

(Rajya Sabha)

New Delhi

Dear Tanmaya,

Reference your email on the Special Mention regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which has been inadvertently deleted. However I had saved the attachment which contains the special mention by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, which is reattached, in which he has essentially demanded

that all the documents relating to Netaji be made public by the British government in order to gain information, this time, on ! orders allegedly issued by the British Foreign Office in 1941 for the assassination of Netaji.

Our files show that requests for access to British official records on the issue of Netaji's disappearance have been made in the past. More recent records show that the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate Netaji's disappearance, had visited the UK on July 18-August 6, 2001 with the aim of examining declassified British official records related to Netaji and kept at the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library. Certain documents continued ! however to be classified and the Commission was not given access to them. According to the Records and Historical Department of the FCO these were:

1. A few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies. These intelligence records are withheld from release with the approval of the Lord Chancellor,
2. One paper from the IPI (Indian political intelligence organisation) which is retained on grounds of continued political sensitivity.

The Commission had requested that the British authorities be approached to make available these documents. The then DHC met the Head of the South Asian Department of the FCO pursuant to receiving a request from Ministry that the Commission be permitted to examine the British intelligence records withheld from release.

The Foreign Office on 14 December 2001 replied that virtually all the records more than 30 years old were released to the Public Record Office or the British Library. A few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld with the approval of the Lord Chancellor. The foreign office conveyed that these are withheld as a matter of principle because the peacetime files of the intelligence and security agencies are not released, rather than because of their particular content. They also confirmed that one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity. This reply is virtually identical to the memo given to the Commission during their visit by the Records and Historical Department. This position had thus been explained to Justice Mukherjee.

This was taken up again with the British Foreign Office on February 24, 2003 by the High Commission and an identical response was conveyed by FCO dated 22 May 2003. The file also shows that requests pertaining to declassified documents were met by the British authorities.

It is clear that these files will not be declassified and it appears that approaching the Foreign Office would elicit the same reply as the ones received before.

I can fax the letters mentioned above tomorrow if you so wish.

Warm regards

Smita

Smita Purushottam
Minister (Pol)

Warm regards,

Ajaneesh Kumar
DS (E-1)
Tel: 23011261
Fax: 23016476

----- Original Message ----- From: "Tanmaya Lal" <tanmayalal@hotmail.com>
To: <dsewc@mea.gov.in>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 4:05 AM

Dear Ajneesh,

I spoke to JS. You may indicate your name for the Brussels meeting to DISA.

I cdnt receive your mail so far.

regards

pl mention
nos (RIS) has written
to the MP.

06/12

DS (E-1)

SO (E-1)

8/10/05

Tanmaya

Urgent

28



Mrs. Shashi Kumar
 First Secretary (Political)
 Tel: 020-7632-3021
 Email: shashi.kumar@hclondon.net
 Fax: 020-7632-3210

**THE HIGH
 COMMISSION OF
 INDIA**
 INDIA HOUSE
 ALDWYCH
 LONDON WC2B 4NA

FAX MESSAGE

Number of pages : 2
 (including this page)

From: Hicomind London

To: Foreign New Delhi

Shri Tanmaya Lal, Director (EW1) from Shashi Kumar, First Secretary (Pol)

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office on our query concerning the article entitled "British attempted to kill Bose".

I spoke to the National Archives who confirmed that they have the reference numbers HS 7/217 and HS 7/220 with them. I asked them how to have copies of these documents. I was informed that the National Archives would be sending the order form along with the cost of the copies of these documents to be paid to the undersigned in about ten days. On receipt, the documents would be sent to you.

Our earlier inputs of 20th November sent by email were of preliminary nature as FCO has only just replied.

With warm regards,

Shashi Kumar
 (Shashi Kumar)

First Secretary (Pol)
 December 07, 2005

Imp.

Pl. retain carefully.

There were earlier pps.

regarding a parl. qⁿ a few days ago -

TE
 08/12

DS(E-I)

SO(E-I) — Pl. confm.

9/12/11

Please keep these papers together, carefully
18/12/11
DRam

06 December 2005

Mrs Shashi Kumar
First Secretary (Political)
The High Commission of India
Fax: 0207-632-2210



Foreign &
Commonwealth
E202

20 King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AA
Tel: 0207-008-2363
Fax: 0207-008-3258
E-mail: Andrew.Brand@fc.gov.uk

Dear Mr Kumar

NETAJI SUBASH CHANDRA B

Thank you for your fax of 21 October concerning the BBC article headed "British 'attempted to kill Bose'". Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding but I have only just received an answer from my colleagues in our records section.

They told me that Mr O'Halpin's article cites the SOE war diaries, which are open at The National Archives. The reference numbers are HS 7/217 and HS 7/220. These documents were released in 1999. You can contact the National Archives direct about getting copies of these documents.

I hope this is helpful.

Best regards

Andy Brand

Andrew Brand
South Asia Group